

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 666

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION ON UN MATTERS WITH DR. ROSA, LEADER OF
POLITICAL SECTION ON UN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

1. SUMMARY: DURING A CONVERSATION APRIL 9, 1975, DR. ROSA
RECIPROCATED THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY OFFICER IN
WORKING TOGETHER ON UN MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHERE
POSITIONS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE SIMILAR. HE
EXPRESSED A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT
OF UN CHARTER REVISION ABOUT WHICH HE SAYS HE HAS NOTED
A CHANGE IN THE US POSITION OVER TIME. ROSA STATED THE
VIEW OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT THAT THE UN MUST BE MAINTAINED
AS A "POLITICAL" ORGANIZATION WHERE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW
CAN BE AIRED AND DISCUSSED. HE DEPRECATED THE IDEA THAT
THE UN SHOULD BECOME ANOTHER "ECONOMIC" ORGANIZATION SINCE
THERE ARE SUFFICIENT OF THESE ALREADY ESTABLISHED. END SUMMARY

ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH
CURRENT STATUS OF THE US POSITION ON UN CHARTER REVISION
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AND SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR INITIATING A DIALOGUE WITH DR. ROSA ON THIS SUBJECT. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A DIALOGUE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUESTS RELATED TO UN AFFAIRS FROM WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY DURING THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. POLITICAL OFFICER CALLED UPON DR. ROSA TO ESTABLISH CONTACT ON UN MATTERS IN ANTICIPATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EMBASSY WORK IN THIS FIELD. DR. ROSA'S NAME HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY LEADER OF USA SECTION IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SIEMENS, ON LIST OF CONTACTS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO CALL UPON. DR. ROSA HEADS THE POLITICAL OFFICE IN MFA CONCERNED WITH UN MATTERS AND HE SAID THERE WAS ANOTHER SECTION DEALING WITH UN ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, ROSA STATED THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICE FOR UNESCO AFFAIRS IN MFA EVEN THOUGH THE HEAD OF THE GDR DELEGATION IN PARIS IS DRAWN FROM MFA. UNESCO MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY THE GDR UNESCO COMMISSION WHICH HAS ITS OFFICES IN ANOTHER PART OF BERLIN.

3. DURING OUR DISCUSSION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN A FRIENDLY AND FRANK ATMOSPHERE, DR. ROSA NOTED THAT HE IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US POSITION ON REVISION OF THE UN CHARTER HAS CHANGED FROM THE POSITION WE HAD IN THE FIFTIES. HE IMPLIED THAT WE MAY NOT BE AS ANXIOUS FOR REVISION AS WE WERE BEFORE AND CITED THE SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR SCALI IN DECEMBER 1974 WHICH SUGGESTED THE UN WAS MOVING IN A DIRECTION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. ROSA IMPLIED THAT THE GDR GOVERNMENT HAD SYMPATHY FOR THIS VIEWPOINT AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS THE CONSIDERED GDR VIEW THAT THE UN MUST REMAIN A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND NOT BE TURNED INTO ANOTHER "ECONOMIC" ENTITY. HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE UN TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MATTERS. THERE WAS A BRIEF AND INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE FOURTH WORLD COUNTRIES WHO ARE UNDERDEVELOPED AND POOR IN RESOURCES.

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4. DR. ROSA SPOKE OF HIS OWN ASSOCIATION WITH THE UN AND THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN PART OF THE GDR DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SAID THAT THE GDR MISSION BUILDING ON PARK AVENUE IS IN A GOOD LOCATION BUT THAT MUCH WORK INCLUDING NEW PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL WIRING HAS TO BE DONE. THE 7-MAN GDR STAFF IN THE PERMANENT MISSION LIVES NEAR PARK AVENUE BUILDING OR ON 86TH

STREET NEAR HARLEM(SIC) THE LATTER LOCATION CAUSING THE WIVES IN THE DELEGATION SOME CONCERN IN TERMS OF PERSONAL SAFETY. ROSA TALKED IN GLOWING TERMS OF A VISIT TO BEAR MOUNTAIN PARK AND OF HIS DESIRE TO DO MORE TRAVELING IN THE US NOW THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE, WHEN HE IS THERE FOR THE GA SESSION IN THE FALL.

5. IN CLOSING, DR. ROSA STATED HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK ABOUT UN CHARTER REVISION WITH THE EMBASSY AT OUR CONVENIENCE, AND ON OTHER SUBJECTS IN WHICH WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST. HE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO BE IN CONTACT ON A CONTINUING BASIS IF THE EMBASSY WAS AMENABLE TO THE IDEA.

6. COMMENT: MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN IS CLEARLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE GDR GOVERNMENT, A FACT THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IN ITS DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS, ROSA'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS UN CHARTER REVISION GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DISCUSSION OF MORE URGENT MATTERS IN WHICH THE US HAS AN INTEREST, ESPECIALLY DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. EMBASSY REQUESTS INFORMATION ON CURRENT US POSITION ON UN CHARTER REVISION IN ORDER TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPING DR. ROSA AS REGULAR EMBASSY CONTACT.GROVE

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